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Atty. Docket No. 014774-003151

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Date of Deposit February 4, 1998

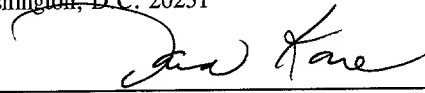
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 CFR §1.53(b) is the
[] patent application, [X] continuation patent application,
[] divisional patent application, or [] continuation-in-part
patent application of

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

By 

Inventor(s)/Applicant Identifier: Brian L. Klosterman and Kenneth A. Milnes

For: TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES

- [X] This application claims priority from each of the following Application Nos./filing dates:
08/482,268 / 06/07/95 ; 08/243,598 / 05/13/94 ; 08/239,225 / 05/04/94 , the disclosure(s) of which is (are) incorporated by reference.
[X] Please amend this application by adding the following before the first sentence: --This application is a [X] continuation [] division of and
claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 08/482,268, filed 06/07/95, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.--
[X] Please cancel claims 1-31.

Enclosed are:

- [X] Preliminary Amendment.
[X] 3 sheet(s) of [X] formal [] informal drawing(s) and 21 pages of specification including description, claims and abstract.
[X] The prior application was assigned to Starsight Telecast Incorporated
[X] A [X] signed [] unsigned Declaration & Power of Attorney (copy from parent application).
[] A [] signed [] unsigned Declaration.
[] A Power of Attorney by Assignee with Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. Section 3.73(b).
[] A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27 [] is enclosed [] was filed in the prior application
and small entity status is still proper and desired.
[X] Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97.
[X] A petition to extend time to respond in the parent application.
[X] The filing fee is calculated after entry of the Preliminary Amendment as follows:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)
FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	40 -20=	*20
INDEP CLAIMS	10 -3=	*7
[] MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENTED		

* If the difference in Col. 1 is less than zero,
enter "0" in Col. 2

SMALL ENTITY		OR	OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
	\$395	OR		\$790
x11=	\$	OR	x22=	\$440
x41=	\$	OR	x82=	\$574
+135=	\$	OR	+270=	\$0
TOTAL	\$	OR	TOTAL	\$1804

Please charge Deposit Account No. 20-1430 as follows:

\$1,804.00

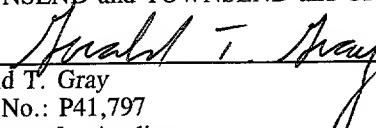
[X] Filing fee

[X] Any additional fees associated with this paper or
during the pendency of this application

[] The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice
of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).

[] A check for \$ is enclosed.
2 extra copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP


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Attorney Docket No. 014774-003151

By [Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
)
BRIAN L. KLOSTERMAN and) Examiner: N. Flynn
KENNETH A. MILNES)
) Art Unit: 2602
Serial No.: Unassigned)
) Preliminary Amendment
Filed: Herewith)
)
For: TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH)
DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, line 8, after "application", please insert --Serial No. 08/482,268, filed June 7, 1995 (pending), which was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31 and add new claims 32-71 as follows:

--32. (New) A television system with downloadable features, comprising:
multiple receiving locations, wherein said receiving locations are at least one of a television, a VCR, and a TVCR;

5 a satellite transmitter for transmitting data
6 associated with said features;

7 multiple receivers for receiving said transmitted data,
8 one of said receivers being located within each of said receiving
9 locations, said data including an identifier, said identifier
10 identifying at least one of said receiving locations;

11 a memory associated with each of said receiving
12 locations for storing said data related to said features, each
13 said memory only storing said data when said identifier
14 identifies said associated receiving location; and

15 a processor associated with each of said receiving
16 locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at
17 least one of said receivers, said processor using said data to
18 implement at least one of said features in at least one of said
19 receiving locations.

1 33. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, further comprising at least one remote
3 control for selecting information related to said features for
4 execution in said receiving locations.

1 34. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, further comprising at least one device with
3 a screen for displaying information related to at least one of
4 said features.

1 35. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 34, wherein said device with said screen is at
3 least one of a television and a computer monitor.

1 36. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, further comprising at least one telephone
3 for ordering said features, wherein data needed for said
4 implementation of said features is downloaded to said receiving
5 locations after at least one of said features is ordered with
6 said telephone.

1 37. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, further comprising at least one remote
3 control for selecting modes of operation of at least one of said
4 features.

1 38. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, further comprising at least one remote
3 control for ordering said features through a set-top box, wherein
4 data needed for said implementation of said feature is downloaded
5 to said receiving locations after at least one of said features
6 is ordered with said remote control.

1 39. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, wherein said features include at least one
3 of a software fix, an advertisement for an enhancement, a
4 feature, a product, and an enhancement.

1 40. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 32, wherein said feature assigns IR codes.

1 41. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:
3 multiple receiving locations;
4 at least one computer storage device associated with at
5 least one of said receiving locations, said computer storage
6 device retrieving executable software associated with at least
7 one of said downloadable features from a computer readable
8 storage medium, wherein said executable software includes an
9 identifier indicating specific receiving locations of said
10 multiple receiving locations;

11 a memory associated with each of said computer storage
12 devices for storing said retrieved executable software; and

13 a processor associated with each of said computer
14 storage devices for executing said retrieved executable software,
15 wherein said processor only executes said executable software

16 when said identifier indicates said associated receiving
17 location.

1 42. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 41, further comprising a device with a screen
3 associated with each of said receiving locations, said device
4 with a screen for displaying information related to said
5 features.

1 43. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 42, further comprising at least one remote
3 control for selecting said information related to said features
4 for display on said device with a screen.

1 44. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 41, further comprising at least one of a
3 telephone and a remote control for ordering said features.

1 45. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 41, wherein said receiving locations are
3 televisions.

1 46. (New) A method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features, comprising:
3 transmitting data with a satellite broadcast system to
4 multiple receiving locations, said data associated with said
5 features and including an identifier, said identifier identifying
6 at least one of said receiving locations, wherein said receiving
7 locations are at least one of a VCR, a television, and a TVCR;
8 receiving said data at said multiple receivers, one of
9 said receivers being located within each of said receiving
10 locations;
11 storing said data in at least one of said receiving
12 locations, said storing only occurring in said receiving
13 locations identified by said identifier; and

14 using said data stored in said receiving locations
15 identified by said identifier to enable at least one of said
16 features in at least one of said receiving locations.

1 47. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 46, further comprising
3 displaying information related to said features.

1 48. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 47, wherein said displaying
3 is on a television.

1 49. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 46, further comprising
3 selecting information related to said features for display, said
4 selecting done with a remote control.

1 50. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 46, further comprising
3 ordering said features, wherein data needed for said enabling of
4 said features is broadcast to said receiving locations after at
5 least one of said features is ordered.

1 51. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 50, wherein said ordering is
3 done with a telephone.

1 52. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 50, wherein said ordering is
3 done with a remote control and a set-top box.

1 53. (New) The method of providing a television system
2 with downloadable features of claim 46, wherein said features
3 include at least one of a software fix, an advertisement for an
4 enhancement, a feature, a product, and an enhancement.

1 54. (New) A television system receiving location
2 comprising:

3 a VCR including a data receiver for receiving system
4 operating software from a satellite broadcast system, said system
5 operating software including an identifier associated with the
6 receiving location;

7 memory coupled to said data receiver for storing said
8 system operating software when said system operating software
9 includes said identifier;

10 a processor coupled to said memory,
11 said processor implementing selected software features
12 when said system operating software includes said identifier;

13 a device with a screen coupled to said receiver for
14 displaying information associated with said system operating
15 software.

1 55. (New) The television system receiving location of
2 claim 54, wherein said device with said screen is a television.

1 56. (New) The television system receiving location of
2 claim 54, further comprising a tuner coupled to said receiver for
3 tuning to a channel, said system operating software being
4 available on said channel.

1 57. (New) The television system receiving location of
2 claim 56, wherein said processor tunes said tuner to said channel
3 at a predetermined time, said system operating software being
4 available on said channel at said predetermined time.

1 58. (New) The television system receiving location of
2 claim 54, further comprising an on-screen display device coupled
3 to said processor, said on-screen display device capable of
4 displaying said information associated with said system operating
5 software on said device with a screen.

1 59. (New) The television system receiving location of
2 claim 54, further comprising a remote control receiver coupled to
3 said processor, said remote control receiver capable of receiving
4 user selections from a remote control, said user selections being
5 related to said system operating software.

1 60. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:
3 multiple receiving locations;
4 at least one computer storage device associated with at
5 least one of said receiving locations, said computer storage
6 device retrieving executable software associated with at least
7 one of said downloadable features from a computer readable
8 storage medium;

9 a memory associated with each of said computer storage
10 devices for storing said retrieved executable software; and
11 a processor associated with each of said computer
12 storage devices for executing said retrieved executable software.

1 61. (New) The television system of claim 32, wherein
2 said data is transmitted over a vertical blanking interval
3 associated with a dedicated channel.

1 62. (New) The television system of claim 41, wherein
2 said computer readable storage medium is selected from the group
3 consisting of laser disks, compact disks, floppy disks, and
4 magnetic medium.

1 63. (New) The television system of claim 60, wherein
2 said computer readable storage medium is selected from the group
3 consisting of laser disks, compact disks, floppy disks, and
4 magnetic medium.

1 64. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:

multiple receiving locations, wherein said receiving locations are at least one of a television, a VCR, and a TVCR; a broadcast system for transmitting data associated with said features over a terrestrial antenna;

multiple receivers utilizing terrestrial antennae for receiving said transmitted data, one of said receivers being located within each of said receiving locations, said data including an identifier, said identifier identifying at least one of said receiving locations;

a memory associated with each of said receiving locations for storing said data related to said features, each said memory only storing said data when said identifier identifies said associated receiving location; and

a processor associated with each of said receiving locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at least one of said receivers, said processor using said data to implement at least one of said features in at least one of said receiving locations.

65. (New) The television system of claim 32, wherein said identifier identifies receiving locations of a specific model, a specific brand, a specific production period, or a specific production type.

66. (New) A television system receiving location comprising:

a data receiver in a television set for receiving system operating software from a satellite broadcast system, said system operating software including an identifier associated with the receiving location;

memory coupled to said data receiver for storing said system operating software when said system operating software includes said identifier;

a processor coupled to said memory, said processor implementing selected software features when said system operating software includes said identifier;

13 a screen coupled to said receiver for displaying
14 information associated with said system operating software.

1 67. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:

3 multiple receiving locations;
4 a satellite transmitter for transmitting data
5 associated with a feature, wherein said feature is operable to
6 assign an IR code for a remote control unit associated with at
7 least one of said receiving locations;

8 multiple receivers for receiving said transmitted data,
9 one of said receivers being located within each of said receiving
10 locations, said data including an identifier, said identifier
11 identifying at least one of said receiving locations;

12 a memory associated with each of said receiving
13 locations for storing said data related to said feature, each
14 said memory only storing said data when said identifier
15 identifies said associated receiving location; and

16 a processor associated with each of said receiving
17 locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at
18 least one of said receivers, said processor using said data to
19 implement said feature in at least one of said receiving
20 locations.

1 68. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:

3 multiple receiving locations;
4 a satellite transmitter for transmitting data
5 associated with a feature, said data including information about
6 said feature so as to enable a user to choose whether to have
7 said feature downloaded;

8 multiple receivers for receiving said transmitted data,
9 one of said receivers being located within each of said receiving
10 locations, said data including an identifier, said identifier
11 identifying at least one of said receiving locations;

12 a memory associated with each of said receiving
13 locations for storing said data related to said feature, each
14 said memory only storing said data when said identifier
15 identifies said associated receiving location; and

16 a processor associated with each of said receiving
17 locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at
18 least one of said receivers, each of said processors capable of
19 implementing said feature in at least one of said receiving
20 locations.

1 69. (New) A television system with downloadable
2 features, comprising:

3 multiple receiving locations;

4 multiple receivers for receiving data associated with a
5 feature, wherein said feature is already present and unenabled in
6 at least one of said receiving locations, one of said receivers
7 being located within each of said receiving locations, said data
8 including an identifier, said identifier identifying at least one
9 of said receiving locations;

10 a memory associated with each of said receiving
11 locations for storing said data related to said feature, each
12 said memory only storing said data when said identifier
13 identifies said associated receiving location; and

14 a processor associated with each of said receiving
15 locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at
16 least one of said receivers, said processor using said data to
17 enable said feature in at least one of said receiving
18 locations.

1 70. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 69, wherein said receiving locations are at
3 least one of a television, a VCR, a TVCR and a set-top box.

1 71. (New) The television system with downloadable
2 features of claim 69, further comprising a satellite transmitter
3 for transmitting said data associated with said feature.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 32-71 are pending.

Claims 32-64 are similar to claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-20, 22-33 and 36 which were pending in parent application Serial No. 08/482,268, and which were previously rejected therein.

II. The Presently Claimed invention

The presently claimed invention is directed to providing downloadable features to identified receiving locations in a television system. Downloadable features include, for example, a software fix or upgrade, an advertisement for an enhancement, a product, and an enhancement. Data relating to these features are provided to multiple receiving locations from a main location. These data also include an identifier which identifies at least one of the receiving locations. The data are then stored in the identified receiving locations. A processor then uses the data to implement at least one of the features.

III. Previous Rejection in Parent Application Serial No. 08/482,268

Claims 32-64 are similar to claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-20, 22-33 and 36 of the parent application Serial No. 08/482,268, which were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bacon et al. ('Bacon') and 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Bacon in view of Litteral et al. ('Litteral') or Reiter et al. ('Reiter'). For the reasons set forth below, reconsideration of the rejection with respect to claims 32-64 and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Bacon discloses a system for reprogramming a set top terminal in a subscription television system so that an older television set appears to a viewer to have the functionality of a newer television set. Program code is downloaded from the headend to the set top terminal during a series of defined transactions between the headend and the terminal.

Litteral discloses a system for providing video programming on demand. The system allows a subscriber to order video programming using a standard telephone. After ordering, the requested video programming is sent via an asymmetrical digital subscriber line from the appropriate server to the subscriber. Such "pay-per-view" systems were cited in the background section of the present application.

Reiter discloses a system for viewing television programming information on a television, wherein the television programming information is updatable via telephone link, magnetic cards, floppy disks, television subcarrier, or radio subcarrier.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bacon does not anticipate independent claims 32, 46, 54 and 64 as stated in the previous Rejection. Specifically, Bacon does not disclose multiple receiving locations for receiving data associated with features and transmitted by a satellite transmitter or terrestrial antenna, wherein the data is received by a receiver located within at least one of a television, a VCR and a TVCR. Further, Bacon does not disclose implementing features in at least one of a television, a VCR and a TVCR. Rather, Bacon only discloses a system in which program code for a control program of a set top terminal is received by the set top terminal and implemented in the set top terminal. Bacon only pertains to systems in which the control program of a set top terminal is reprogrammed, or updated, to provide the subscriber with added functionality. Specifically, features found in newer television receivers can be provided for older television receivers through use of the updated control program of the set top terminal (subscriber terminal) attached to the television receiver. In this manner an older television set can appear to a user to have the functionality of a newer television set through the updated control program of the set top terminal. Such a system is illustrated in Figure 1 of Bacon, for example, and described throughout the specification (e.g., Col 1, lines 10-42). The presently claimed invention, to the contrary allows new

functionality to be implemented directly in a television set, or in a VCR, or the like.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bacon does not anticipate independent claims 41 and 60 as stated in the Rejection. Specifically, Bacon does not disclose a television system with a computer storage device retrieving executable software associated with at least one feature from a computer readable storage medium, such as laser disks, compact disks, floppy disks and magnetic medium, for example. Rather, Bacon only pertains to a system with a set top terminal that receives program code transmitted over cable from a headend in a CATV system. Such a cable distribution system is illustrated, as above, in Figure 1 and described throughout the specification (e.g., Col. 4, lines 59-65).

Therefore, since independent claims 32, 41, 46, 54, 60 and 64 are believed to be novel and unobvious, applicants respectfully submit that all claims that depend from these independent claims are similarly novel and unobvious.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that since claims 36, 44 and 51 each depend from claims which are believed to be patentable, these claims are similarly patentable. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully disagree with the contention that it would have been obvious to use traditional telephone ordering as disclosed in Litteral with the system of Bacon. Bacon discloses a modem and telephone link for data communication with telephone processor 16 and system manager 12, which communicates with billing computer 11. (Figure 1; Col. 6, lines 4-10). There is, therefore, no motivation to use conventional telephone ordering where a subscriber calls by telephone with the system of Bacon because a computer data link via telephone and modem is already provided in Bacon for ordering updates for the set top terminal control program. Thus, it would not have been obvious to use traditional telephone ordering with the system disclosed in Bacon.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that since claims 62 and 63 both depend from claims which are believed to be

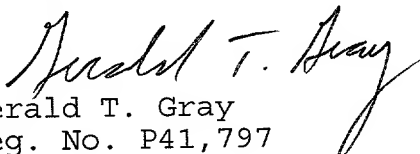
patentable, these claims are similarly patentable. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully disagree with the contention that the combination of Bacon and Reiter would yield the system claimed in claim 62. Specifically, neither reference teaches or suggests retrieving executable software from a computer readable storage medium such as a laser disk, a compact disk, a floppy disk or magnetic medium, wherein the software includes an identifier indicating specific receiving locations. Therefore, whether or not it would have been obvious to add a disk drive to the system of Bacon, doing so would not result in the invention of claim 62.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald T. Gray
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PATENT APPLICATION

TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES

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TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES

5

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/243,598, filed May 13, 1994 (pending), which was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/239,225, filed May 4, 1994 (pending), both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Several methods for downloading television-related information are currently available. This information is often associated with television schedule guides. Many different transmission schemes are also available for providing the information required for a television schedule guide. For example, a direct broadcast satellite system ("DBS") can provide television program schedule information via a satellite dish in conjunction with a set-top receiver. In addition, conventional satellite dishes, coax cable, telephone lines, fiber optic cable, antenna, etc. are often used to distribute television program schedule information. For example, the vertical blanking interval ("VBI") within a television channel, or an independent television channel can be used to provide the television program schedule information.

U.S. Patent No. 5,353,121 is representative of systems which present television schedule guide information, and has found wide success in the industry. U.S. Patent No. 5,353,121 is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes. Additionally, U.S. Serial No. 08/423,411, filed April 17, 1995, discloses many of the available transmission schemes for television information, and it is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

There are also systems which allow a subscriber to select video(s) for display at the subscriber's location. One such system utilizes a touch tone telephone keypad to input the

subscriber's selection(s). These systems are sometimes available on cable television, and they are often referred to as pay-per-view video systems.

Sometimes the software in a television becomes out-dated, or perhaps even non-functional, due to new developments in the technology. Thus, adding new features, updating software and correcting software problems is sometimes desirable. Moreover, an incompatibility may arise due to newly-purchased units in the television system (e.g., a remote infrared code needed for a new VCR). In these situations, a serviceperson is needed to enter the consumer's home in order to perform a repair or update, or the consumer must bring or send the device to a retail location where the device can be serviced. In both of these situations, the consumer is exposed to a certain degree of inconvenience. Therefore, a more convenient way of providing this type of service is desirable. Additionally, when newly developed features are desired, consumers sometimes replace a still functioning unit with a new one in order to obtain those features.

Finally, manufacturers can communicate directly with their customers, but this communication is limited and costly. For example, a manufacturer can send out a mailing, make a phone call, distribute advertisements, or broadcast a commercial. While a manufacturer can direct mailings and telephone calls to consumers who have purchased a particular product, they cannot direct their television commercials in the same manner. Therefore, a system which allows for advertisements to be placed on certain consumer's televisions is desirable. Moreover, as set forth above, a system which allows manufacturers to update, replace or add television system software without the need for a repairperson is also desirable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the preferred embodiment, the present invention is directed to providing downloadable features, and more particularly to providing these features to identified receiving locations in a television system. Features may be

desired by the manufacturer for (1) correcting software defects, (2) adding or updating software, or (3) meeting compatibility requirements. Features may also be ordered by consumers who respond to solicitations or advertisements for these features in response to advertising in the television system. For example, advertisements can be electronically delivered via a network to specific consumer's televisions (or other electronic products) based on the products' electronic serial number. These features can also add functionality to a television system. The data related to these features are compiled and sent from a main location to consumer's electronic products (e.g., televisions) in multiple receiving locations. The data are then stored in the identified receiving locations, and software is used to install the stored feature. This storing is usually done in a non-volatile or flash RAM. Each of the receiving locations has a receiver, a memory, and a processor. The receiver receives data associated with the features. These data include an identifier which identifies at least one of the receiving locations. The memory at each receiving location only stores the received data when the data's identifier identifies the associated receiving location. The processor at each receiving location uses the saved data to load, save or implement the features into the receiving locations.

These and other advantages will become apparent to those skilled in this art upon a reading of the following detailed description of the invention, which should be taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a system for broadcasting and receiving features;

Figure 2 reveals the basic components of a receiving television;

Figure 3 is a portion of a packet of data which shows the relevant feature fields; and

Figure 4 reveals how information related to a feature is shown on the television screen, and how a remote can be used to gain additional information.

5 DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

Types of Features

The present invention provides a scheme for downloading features in a television system. A wide number of downloadable features are available in the present invention.

10 These downloadable features usually fall into one of two categories. The first category includes software defect corrections, compatibility requirement fixes, and software updates or additions which are provided by television manufacturers or third party suppliers. For example, a

15 television manufacturer may encounter software problems after a certain model of television has been sold and distributed. In order to correct this problem without disturbing the consumers who purchased the affected television models, the manufacturer can easily download new software which corrects the software problem. In this arrangement, a serviceperson/go-between is

20 not required. In another example, infrared ("IR") codes may be incorrect or obsolete. IR codes can be used to allow interaction between a television and a VCR with a single remote control. Therefore, the correct IR codes are needed for a

25 television remote control to control both a television and a VCR. In this scenario, the manufacturer can easily download new IR codes so that the consumer can use their existing television remote control to control a newly purchased or previously incompatible VCR, set-top box, etc. Again, a

30 serviceperson is not required and the remote control or product does not need to be sent in for service.

In the second category of features, the consumer chooses which features they wish to have downloaded into or enabled in their television system. For example, the consumer

35 may want enhancements to their user interface such that their television on-screen menu or guide contains more options. Other examples of these types of features include (1) picture-in-picture enhancements, (2) channel identification in a

picture-in-picture screen, (3) the display of graphic network logos and icons with channel identification on the screen, (4) extended data service (EDS) enhancements, (5) stock quotation services, (6) virtual channel services, (7) news services, (8) weather services, and (9) sports score services.

Many of the above-identified features are already present in a television as sold, and only need to be enabled in the television system. For example, when a user selects to have the icon with the channel identification displayed, this icon is displayed in the upper left-hand corner whenever the user switches to a new channel. These icons with channel identification are usually included in the ROM of the televisions when the televisions are sold, but the icons are only activated when the proper software is present. The present invention allows this software to be easily downloaded at a later time. The downloaded software can also be used to provide additional icons for new networks.

Finally, advertisements for available features may be sent to a consumer or a group of consumers. The advertisements and information related to these advertisements can be viewed on any device with a screen (e.g., a television or a computer monitor).

Hardware Configuration

Figure 1 is a system for broadcasting and receiving features. In the preferred embodiment, data associated with the above-described features are compiled in main location 20. Main location 20 may be, for example, a television manufacturer, a guide provider, or the like. The data are then sent over communication line 22 to distribution location 30. Line 22 can be any form of medium. In the preferred embodiment, line 22 is a telephone line. In an alternative embodiment, the compiled data are placed on a laser disk, video tape or compact disk, and sent to distribution location 30 via overnight mail or courier.

In the preferred embodiment, distribution location 30 works in conjunction with satellite 40 to broadcast data to receiving locations 46, 48 and 50. The data, in the preferred

embodiment, are transported on the vertical blanking interval ("VBI") of a certain dedicated channel. As an alternative, the data can be broadcast on a dedicated television or radio frequency channel, with or without other data. The data can also be broadcast in a hi-speed digital environment. In the preferred embodiment, the broadcast is done every night, so the receiving locations can be programmed to receive and, if needed, save the received data. Receiving locations 46, 48 and 50 include, for example, VCR(s) 46, miscellaneous box(es) 48 and television(s) 50. Miscellaneous box 48 could be, for example, a set-top box (e.g., a cable box) or a TVCR (television and VCR combined into one unit). In the preferred embodiment, the receiving locations are multiple televisions 50 and VCRs 46 located within households. These receiving locations 46, 48 and/or 50 could be linked to other devices/products in order to provide updates or downloads of data to those other devices/products.

In another embodiment of the present invention, data associated with the above-described features are compiled in main location 20 and placed on a computer disk (e.g., laser disk, compact disk, floppy disk, or the like). This disk is then sent, in the preferred embodiment, via overnight mail to consumers located at receiving locations 46, 48 and/or 50. The consumer can then insert the computer disk into computer storage device 52 in order to download the data related to the above-described features into the memory within one of the receiving locations 50. Computer storage device 52 can be any commercially available disk drive. In yet another embodiment, data can be provided on a video cassette tape (or other similar media) which is then shipped to the consumer via overnight mail, so that the consumer can use their VCR 46 to download the data related to their selected feature. In this arrangement, data is read from the VBI of the video tape. Finally, the compiled data can be sent via transmission line 42. Transmission line 42 may be, for example, coax cable, telephone lines, fiber optic cable, terrestrial antenna, or the like.

When data are broadcast, as shown in the first embodiment, the data contains an indicator address which

indicates at least one of the available receiving locations 46, 48 and/or 50 within system 10. As stated above, these receiving locations 46, 48 and 50 can be, for example, television, VCRs, set-top boxes, TVCRs and/or the like. Thus, a certain feature can be sent to all televisions manufactured by a particular manufacturer by placing an indicator address in the associated data which indicates such manufacturers. Each of the receiving locations 46, 48 and 50 have an exclusive identification number. This identification number, in the preferred embodiment, has sub-identification fields which include: (1) TV brand, (2) model/series number, (3) customer serial number, and (4) region number. When data are received by one of the receiving locations 46, 48 or 50, the indicator address in that data is read. If the indicator address matches the appropriate portion(s) of the identification number for one of receiving locations 46, 48 or 50, then data associated with that indicator address is saved within corresponding receiving location 46, 48 or 50. Each indicator address subfield can contain a wildcard indicator which identifies all categories which can be indicated in that subfield. For example, if the customer serial number subfield contains a wildcard indicator, all customers with the indicated television brand, etc., will save the associated data. Therefore, the indicator address can be structured to identify a specific unit, a specific model or serial number group, a specific brand, a specific production or date run, or a specific product type (i.e., television, TVCR, VCR, or set-top box)

Figure 2 reveals the basic components of a receiving television. As stated above, in the preferred embodiment, the receiving locations are televisions 50. The broadcast data are received by tuner 54, video processor 60 and data decoder 61, within television 50. In order to receive the broadcast data, microprocessor 62 causes tuner 54 to tune to the channel which carries the feature related data. When the received data contains an indicator address which corresponds to the appropriate portion(s) of the television's identification number, those data are saved in RAM 58. Microprocessor 62 monitors the received data at the time of broadcast for the

correct indicator address. In some embodiments, after data are saved in RAM 58, on-screen display ("OSD") 64 displays messages related to the available features on the television screen.

RAM 58 is a non-volatile, battery backed-up, or flash memory such that a continual primary power supply is not required to maintain the RAM. RAM 58 contains a TV control section, a loader program, and an advanced program. In another embodiment, ROM 59 may contain a loader program and a TV control section. The TV control section is a basic program which allows television 50 to interact with remote control 100. Signals transmitted by remote control 100 are received by IR receiver 68. The loader program is used for changing the advanced program. The advanced program may or may not be included in the television when the television is initially purchased. The advanced program can be later added when data implementing a new feature are received, or portions of the advanced program can be replaced or enabled in order to provide a new feature when data implementing that feature is received. Thus, the data sent for implementing a feature includes advanced program data.

The hardware and software within television 50 (see Figure 2) can also be located within VCR 46 or set-top box 48. When this occurs, the control section (corresponding to the TV control section described above) is a VCR control section or a set-top box control section. Accordingly, features can be implemented into VCR 46 and set-top box 48 in the same manner as they are implement into television 50.

Software

Figure 3 is a portion of a packet of data which shows the relevant feature fields of one particular embodiment of the invention. In the preferred embodiment, the data associated with the features is broadcast in a packet format. Within each packet of data, information related to at least one feature is provided. For example, in Figure 3 a portion of a particular packet for assigning IR codes is provided.

The IR Codes command specifies the control codes to be used by the remote control in order to control a specific

peripheral device. In the preferred embodiment, peripheral devices include VCRs, set-top boxes, TVCRs and televisions. Transmission of this command normally occurs when a consumer has a remote control which is incompatible with one of their peripheral devices. As with other features, IR codes may be sent either addressed to a specific unit via its serial number or to groups of units which have a given product code, device type (e.g., VCR), and/or a device ID.

The IR Codes command presented in Figure 3 includes multiple fields. The first field, field 0, includes Command Type 70. Command Type 70 identifies the command as an Assign IR Codes command. Flag 72 is also included in field 0. Flag 72 indicates if the current command has been encrypted. Decryption Key ID 74, also included in field 0, identifies which of two current program decryption keys should be used to decrypt this command, if needed. Fields 1 and 2 contain Command Length 76. These fields provide the total number of bytes contained in this command. Fields 3 through 7 contain Serial Number 78. Serial Number 78 is the consumer unit's serial number to which the command is addressed. If Serial Number = 0, then the command is addressed to all consumer units having a Product Code, Device Type, and Device ID corresponding to the one in this command.

Fields 8 and 9 include Product Code 80, and field 10 includes Interconnect Configuration 82. Interconnect Configuration 82 contains a number corresponding to the way the components controlled by the peripheral devices are connected. Field 11 contains Vendor-Specific field 84. This field includes a byte value whose use value depends upon the product to which this command is addressed. For example, when this command is addressed to a particular manufacturer's television, this value is the tuning method index to be used with the downloaded IR Codes for that specific manufacturer's television. Product Code 80 contains the number identifying the type/model of consumer unit to which this command is addressed. This number also correlates with the type of remote controller for the peripheral device. This command is ignored by the consumer unit if this number does not match its Product

Code when the Serial Number field = 0. In addition, this field is ignored when the Serial Number field is non-zero.

Device Type 86 identifies the type of device (VCR, cable box, TV, IRD, etc.) that can recognize the IR Codes.

5 Device ID 88 contains the code group number for the device that recognizes the IR Codes. The consumer unit (only if it has a matching address) replaces whatever group number it currently has for the given Device Type with this number. Thus, main location 20 can directly set the code group for a specific user. This is not done if the Serial Number field in this command is 0. In this case, the command is only processed if the consumer has already entered a code number that matches the Device ID for the same Device Type.

15 Field 15 contains IR Version 90 which has the version number for the IR Codes in this command. The identified peripheral device saves the version number for each Device Type and only processes those assign IR Codes commands addressed to groups of consumers if its version number is greater than the previously stored version number. Thus, the system does not re-process IR Codes commands. Fields 16 and 17 include IR Codes Length 92. IR Codes Length 92 contains the number of bytes in the IR Codes Fields. If this value equals 0, then only Device ID is used to update the code group for the specified Device Type and the field with the IR Codes is empty.

25 Therefore, no downloading occurs if this field equals 0. Fields 18 through *n* include the IR Codes 94. IR Codes 94 contain information (normally IR Codes) to be used by the remote control to control devices of the specified type. Structure within fields 18 through *n* is determined by the remote control manufacturer.

30

In summary, when the appropriate field within a feature packet corresponds to the appropriate portion(s) of an identification number in a receiving location, microprocessor 62 saves that packet in RAM 58. The loader program then inserts data from the appropriate fields of the feature packet into the advanced program. Thus, software in the receiving location is used in conjunction with the feature command portion of the received packet to integrate a new feature.

35

Television Display

In the preferred embodiment, feature related data are sent in the above-described manner under three circumstances. First, data are sent when a manufacturer wants to update a device or wants to automatically fix a software problem. Consumer interaction may not be required in this situation. Thus, the data may be downloaded into the consumer's television system without the consumer's knowledge for regular maintenance purposes. If desired, a consumer can be provided with a description of all the data downloaded into their television system. If interaction is needed, remote 100 is used as described below. Second, data are sent when a new feature is available for consumer selection. In this scenario, the data is usually in the form of an advertisement. Third, data is sent to implement a feature after the feature has been ordered/purchased by a consumer. As set forth above, these features can be utilized for VCRs, televisions, TVCRs, set-top boxes, etc. When the feature data is sent to a receiving site which is not a television, a television may still be used to display information related to that feature.

Figure 4 reveals how information related to a feature is shown on the television screen, and how a remote can be used to gain additional information. In order to interact with television system 10, the consumer uses remote control 100 in response to messages on television screen 110. In the preferred embodiment, remote control buttons 102, 104 and 106 are initially blank. These buttons 102, 104 and 106 correspond to graphically-generated buttons 112, 114 and 116 on television screen 110. If the remote control sold with television 50 does not provide the required special buttons 102, 104 and 106, a new remote control can be sent to the consumer via overnight mail.

When data are sent to advertise a new feature to the consumer, a mailbox icon 120 is usually used to inform the consumer that the new feature is available for selection. A consumer can eliminate the display of the mailbox icon 120 when/if desired. The consumer can also receive more information related to a new feature by pressing any of special

remote control buttons 102, 104 or 106 when prompted by generated buttons 112, 114 and 116.

In the preferred embodiment, when mailbox icon 120 is full (e.g., a flashing icon 120 may indicate a full mail box), the consumer can receive information related to a newly-available feature on television screen 110. This information may be provided as a demonstration after the consumer presses one of the special remote control buttons 102, 104 or 106. At the end of this short demonstration, the consumer is then prompted to either order the feature or to receive more information by pressing one of remote control buttons 102, 104 or 106. For example, an advertising message may include the following: "Now available to RCA TV owners -- Deluxe digital picture-in-picture with network IDs! Call 1-800-STAR-NOW to order today. Just \$19.95." The consumer is also provided with a feature ID number for ordering. In addition, at any time during the demonstration related to the newly-available feature, the consumer can return to the regular television mode by pressing button 108 on remote control 100. Button 108 can be, for example, the pre-channel button on a remote control.

When data are downloaded into a television, VCR, TVCR, or cable box to provide the consumer with a consumer-ordered feature, the consumer may have to interact with the television system 10 in order to fully integrate the new feature. For example, after the feature has been downloaded into the consumer's VCR, a different mailbox icon 120 or on-screen message may be used to alert the consumer that information is required to implement the ordered feature. Again, the consumer begins the interactive process when desired by pressing any of the special remote control buttons 102, 104 or 106. Microprocessor 62 in conjunction with OSD 64 provides the necessary information on television screen 110 by using generated buttons 112, 114 and 116. These buttons solicit the required information from the consumer. The consumer responds to the various questions on television screen 110 by pressing the corresponding remote buttons 102, 104 and 106. For example, the placement and/or size of a second picture in a picture-in-picture display may need to be selected by the

consumer for a picture-in-picture enhancement-type feature. Additionally, when data is downloaded to provide the consumer with a new feature (or features): (1) the new feature can be displayed almost immediately automatically, (2) the data or the new feature can be temporarily stored until the consumer requests the display of the feature, and (3) the data for multiple new features can be stored so that a group of features is later displayed at one time. If desired, consumers can select between these modes of displaying new features with remote control 100 and prompts 130 on television screen 110.

In the preferred embodiment, a telephone key pad at the consumer's location is used to order a desired feature. For example, an automated call response system may be utilized in conjunction with a touch tone keypad to receive the consumer's credit card number, consumer's identification number and the desired feature number such that the ordering can be done automatically. In an alternative embodiment, a two-way/interactive set-top box at the consumer's location is used to order the desired features with remote control 100. If this set-top box is a cable box, the cable company can then transmit the order to main location 20, and the cable company can also assist in the billing process. When ordering, the consumer's identification number may be needed so that the feature can later be saved in the correct consumer television system. This identification number is not needed in the interactive set-top box systems which can track an ordering consumer's location.

In another embodiment of the present invention, receiving location 48 is a computer, and information from an off-site database can be ordered for downloading into computer 48. For example, a particular article, news story, etc. may be advertised on an on-screen display. The customer could then order that particular article, news story, etc. for downloading into computer 48. Additionally, if desired, the consumer could order advertised software programs for computer 48 from the off-site database. These articles, news stories, software programs, and the like are sent to receiving locations in the same manner as described above.

[illegible]

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A television system with downloadable features,
2 comprising:
3 multiple receiving locations;
4 multiple receivers for receiving data associated with
5 said features, one of said receivers being located within each
6 of said receiving locations, said data including an identifier,
7 said identifier identifying at least one of said receiving
8 locations;
9 a memory associated with each of said receiving
10 locations for storing said data related to said features, each
11 said memory only storing said data when said identifier
12 identifies said associated receiving location; and
13 a processor associated with each of said receiving
14 locations, each said processor coupled to said memory and at
15 least one of said receivers, said processor using said data to
16 implement at least one of said features in at least one of said
17 receiving locations.

1 2. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, further comprising at least one remote control for
3 selecting information related to said features for execution in
4 said receiving locations.

1 3. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, further comprising at least one device with a
3 screen for displaying information related to at least one of
4 said features.

1 4. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 3, wherein said device with a screen is at least one
3 of a television and a computer monitor.

1 5. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, further comprising at least one telephone for
3 ordering said features, wherein data needed for said implemen-
4 tation of said features is downloaded to said receiving

5 locations after at least one of said features is ordered with
6 said telephone.

1 6. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, wherein said receiving locations are at least one
3 of a television, a VCR, a TVCR, and a set-top box.

1 7. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, further comprising at least one remote control for
3 selecting modes of operation of at least one of said features.

1 8. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, further comprising at least one remote control for
3 ordering said features through a set-top box, wherein data
4 needed for said implementation of said feature is downloaded to
5 said receiving locations after at least one of said features is
6 ordered with said remote control.

1 9. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, wherein said features include at least one of a
3 software fix, an advertisement for an enhancement, a feature, a
4 product, and an enhancement.

1 10. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 1, wherein said feature assigns IR codes.

1 11. A television system with downloadable features,
2 comprising:

3 multiple receiving locations;

4 at least one computer storage device coupled to at
5 least one of said receiving locations, said computer storage
6 device retrieving data associated with at least one of said
7 features from a computer disk;

8 a memory associated with each of said receiving
9 locations for storing said data related to said features; and

10 a processor associated with each of said receiving
11 locations, said processor using said data from said computer

12 disk to implement at least one of said features in at least one
13 of said receiving locations.

1 12. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 11, further comprising a device with a screen
3 associated with each of said receiving locations, said device
4 with a screen for displaying information related to said
5 features.

1 13. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 12, further comprising at least one remote control for
3 selecting said information related to said features for display
4 on said device with a screen.

1 14. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 11, further comprising at least one of a telephone and
3 a remote control for ordering said features.

1 15. The television system with downloadable features
2 of claim 11, wherein said receiving locations are televisions.

1 16. A method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features, comprising:

3 transmitting data associated with said features to
4 multiple receiving locations, said data including an
5 identifier, said identifier identifying at least one of said
6 receiving locations;

7 receiving said data at said multiple receivers, one
8 of said receivers being located within each of said receiving
9 locations;

10 storing said data in at least one of said receiving
11 locations, said storing only occurring in said receiving
12 locations identified by said identifier; and

13 using said data stored in said receiving locations
14 identified by said identifier to enable at least one of said
15 features in at least one of said receiving locations.

1 17. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, further comprising
3 displaying information related to said features.

1 18. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 17, wherein said displaying is
3 on a television.

1 19. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, further comprising selecting
3 information related to said features for display, said
4 selecting done with a remote control.

1 20. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, further comprising ordering
3 said features, wherein data needed for said enabling of said
4 features is broadcast to said receiving locations after at
5 least one of said features is ordered.

1 21. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 20, wherein said ordering is
3 done with a telephone.

1 22. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 20, wherein said ordering is
3 done with a remote control and a set-top box.

1 23. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, wherein said receiving
3 locations are at least one of televisions, VCRs, TVCRs and set-
4 top boxes.

1 24. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, wherein said features
3 include at least one of a software fix, an advertisement for an
4 enhancement, a feature, a product, and an enhancement.

1 25. The method of providing a television system with
2 downloadable features of claim 16, wherein said receiving
3 locations are at least one of a VCR, a television, TVCR and a
4 cable box.

1 26. A television system receiving location
2 comprising:
3 a data receiver for receiving said television
4 operating software;
5 memory coupled to said data receiver, said memory for
6 storing said television operating software when said television
7 operating software includes an associated receiver identifier;
8 a processor coupled to said memory,
9 said processor implementing selected software
10 features when said television operating software includes said
11 associated receiver identifier;
12 a device with a screen coupled to said receiver for
13 displaying information associated with said television
14 operating software.

1 27. The television system receiving location of
2 claim 26, wherein said device with a screen is a television.

1 28. The television system receiving location of
2 claim 26, further comprising a tuner coupled to said receiver
3 for tuning to a channel, said television operating software
4 being available on said channel.

1 29. The television system receiving location of
2 claim 28, wherein said processor tunes said tuner to said
3 channel at a predetermined time, said television operating
4 software being available on said channel at said predetermined
5 time.

1 30. The television system receiving location of
2 claim 26, further comprising an on-screen display device
3 coupled to said processor, said on-screen display device

1 31. The television system receiving location of
2 claim 26, further comprising a remote control receiver coupled
3 to said processor, said remote control receiver capable of
4 receiving user selections from a remote control, said user
5 selections being related to said television operating software.

TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is directed to providing
5 downloadable features, and more particularly to providing these
features to identified receiving locations (50) in a television
system (10). Features may be desired by the manufacturer for
correcting software defects, updating software, or meeting
compatibility requirements. Features may also be ordered by
10 consumers who respond to solicitation advertisements (130) for
those features. The data related to the features is compiled
and sent from a main location (20) to multiple receiving
locations (46, 48 and 50). The data is then stored in a memory
(58) in the identified receiving locations (50), and software
15 is used to install or operate the stored feature.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **TELEVISION SYSTEM WITH DOWNLOADABLE FEATURES** the specification of which is attached hereto or X was filed on June 7, 1995 as Application Serial No. 08/482,268 and was amended on (if applicable).

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56. I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Country	Application No.	Date of Filing	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC 119
	<i>None</i>		Yes <u> </u> No <u> </u>

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Date of Filing	Status
<i>None</i>		<u> </u> Patented <u> </u> Pending <u> </u> Abandoned

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Full Name of Inventor #2	Last Name Milnes	First Name Kenneth	Middle Name or Initial Alan	

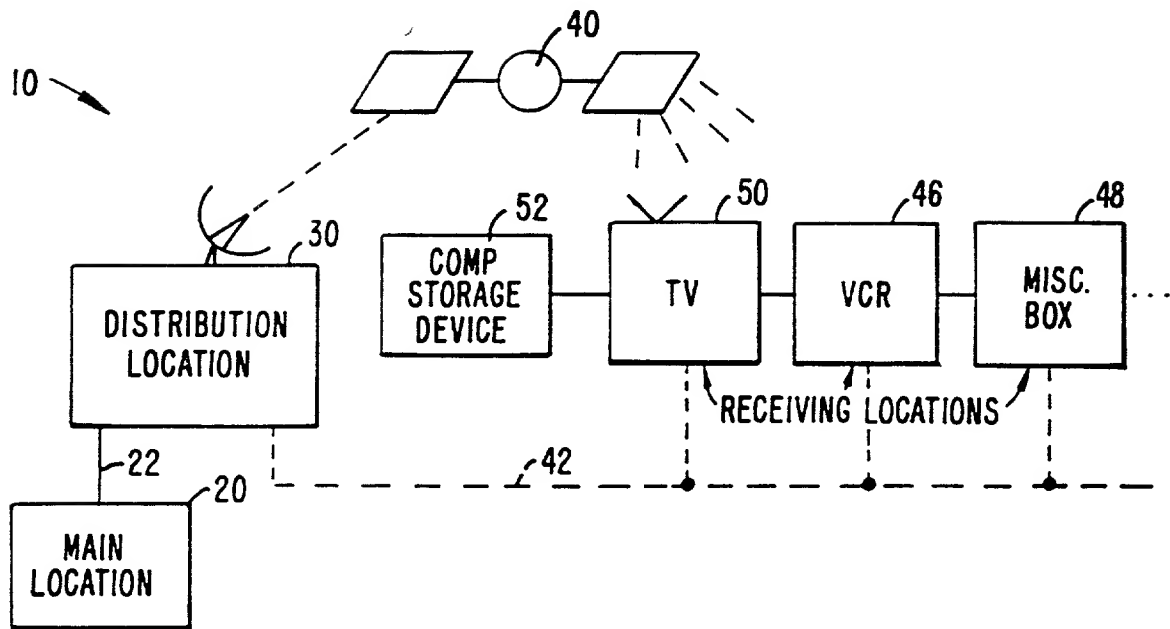


FIG. 1.

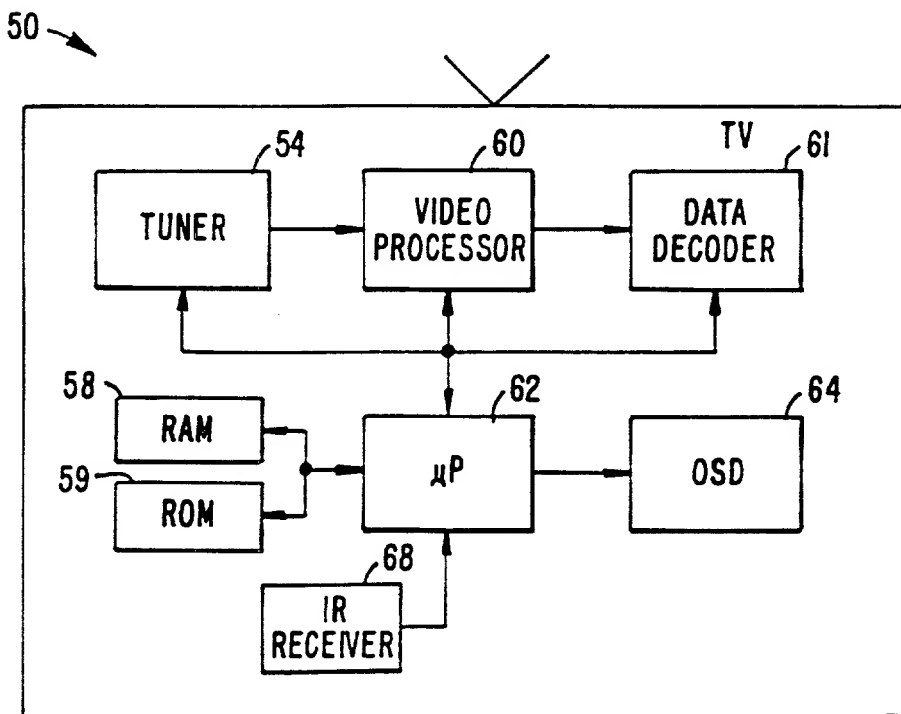


FIG. 2.

0001379 0049
000000 64287000

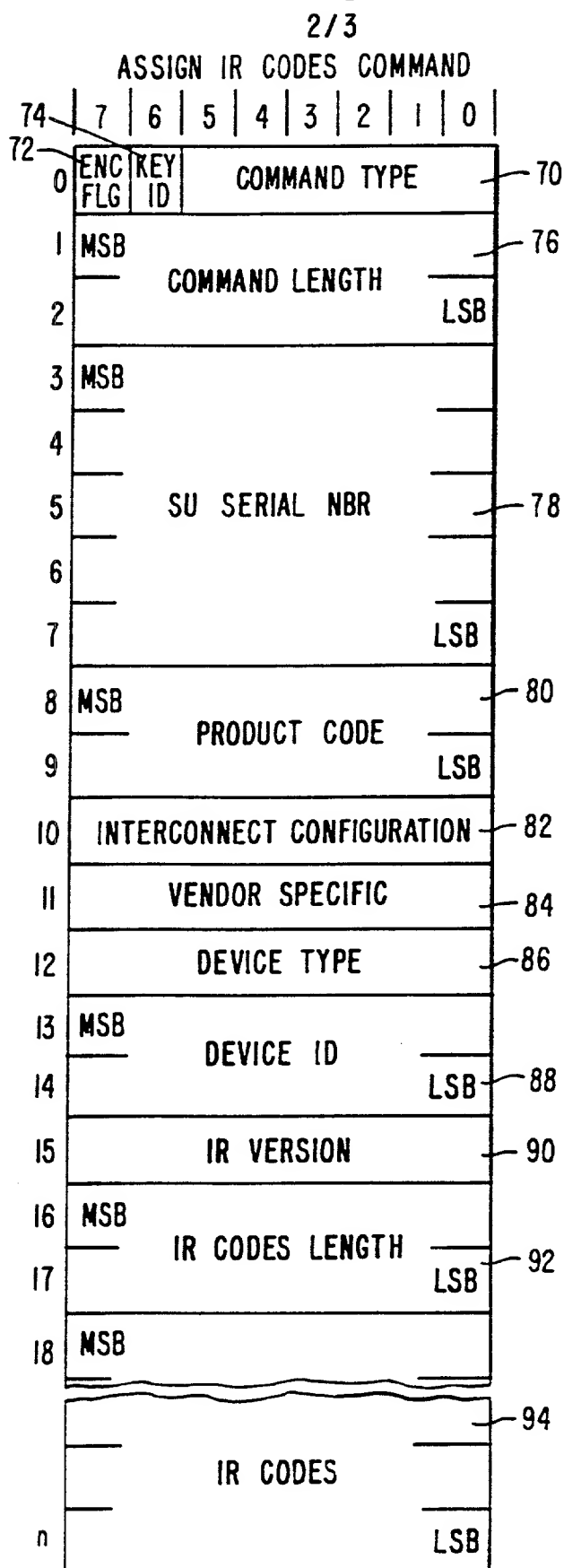


FIG. 3.

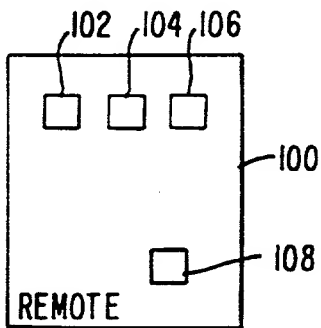
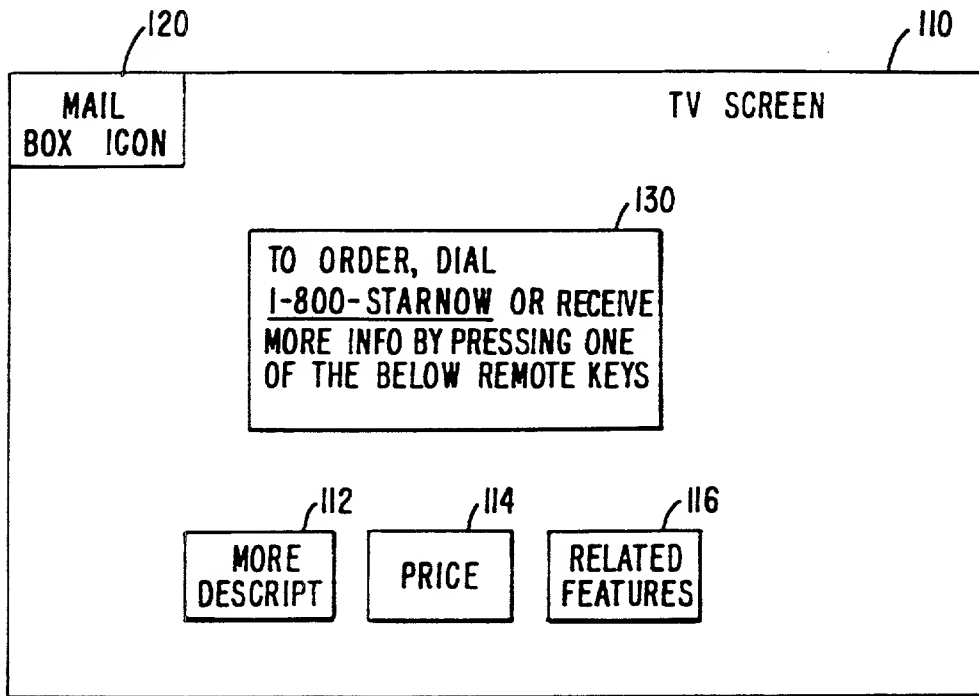


FIG. 4.